

ACTION

**AGENDA ITEM:** Statewide Information Databases

**ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING:**

1. Consideration of funding for support of a cooperative purchasing arrangement for the RAND California database.
2. Consideration of funding for continuation of the Library of California Periodicals/Serials database.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD:** I move that the Library of California Board direct its Chief Executive Officer to allocate Library of California funds not to exceed \$25,000 for support of fiscal agent workload for a cooperative purchasing arrangement for the RAND California database.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD:** I move that the Library of California Board direct its Chief Executive Officer to allocate Library of California funds not to exceed \$387,000 for continuing support of the Library of California Periodicals/Serials database.

**BACKGROUND:**

**ISSUE 1:** Consideration of funding for support of a cooperative purchasing arrangement for the RAND California database.

In February 1999 the Board provided funding for test databases for trial periods. The RAND California database trial was the first statewide information database offered on this basis to libraries meeting the eligibility standards of the LoC. The web-based service provides a wide array of information about the state's demographics and economy. Current registration data indicate more than 400 registrants representing more than 1600 libraries are participating in this free trial (Exhibit A). Potential citizens served by this project exceed 13 million. This level of participation indicates that the project will have met one of the initial objectives of the trial project. A survey of users scheduled for May will produce additional outcome and evaluation data.

The selection criteria used for the initial trial database selection included a provision that at the conclusion of the trial the vendor be willing to develop a pricing model

beneficial to libraries wishing to subscribe to the database. Staff has met with the representative from RAND and Evan Reader, Director of the Software and Electronic Information Resources, California State University, to negotiate rates and terms for a cooperative purchasing agreement for next fiscal year. The proposed cooperative purchase arrangement will allow libraries to license the database at reduced rates. Libraries using the cooperative licensing arrangement through the Library of California will save 10% over an individual subscription to RAND California.

Individual libraries will pay for their participation. CSL staff has negotiated with the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System to provide fiscal agent services to register libraries, verify eligibility, bill each institution and pay invoices from RAND at a cost of \$25,000 per year.

Support for resources to license statewide databases is a LoC program priority. This arrangement will provide a model for future statewide cooperative licensing activities and serves as an example of the LoC using a small amount of state dollars to have a large pay off for individual libraries.

**ISSUE 2: Consideration of funding for continuation of the Library of California Periodicals/Serials database.**

See Exhibit B for a description of the LocPSDB and the Board's role in its ongoing operation as originally presented to the Library of California Board in April 1999.

What is proposed here is funding of the next step in the continuing operation of the LoC program. The proposed subscription-type investment of \$387,000 will continue this program through at least June of 2001, in its current batch input and web access form. This will allow continued access to this data, which is only available in the LoCPSD, while evaluations of its effectiveness and assessment of alternatives continue.

The California Digital Library is still undertaking a request for proposal process for the computer system hosting the LocPSD and MELVYL databases. Results of this change in systems may provide new opportunities for handling remote entry of serials data from contributing libraries for the LoCPSD. The State Library and CDL staff will continue to consider options for production of the database and will analyze the workflow of the service bureau to make improvements.

**GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:**

**CURRENT STATUS:**

**A. Regional trial database projects**

Staff is working with Regional Planning groups to assist in trial database projects funded by the Regional Library Network grants. Of particular note is the cooperative licensing trial in the Arroyo Seco region that will be used as a model for other

regional and/or statewide licensing activities. Staff will keep the LoC Board apprised of developments in this project.

Regional database licensing grants:

Region	Database
Planning Region 1 Cascade Pacific Libraries	Gale Health Reference Center
Planning Region 1 Cascade Pacific Libraries	NoveList
Planning Region 2 Golden Gateway	Electric Library
Planning Region 3 Sierra Valley	OCLC First Search
Planning Region 4 Arroyo Seco	Los Angeles Times/Orange County Register
Planning Region 4 Arroyo Seco	Full text cooperative licensing arrangement

Grant award letters to the Regional Planning groups have reiterated that these grants are not for ongoing support of database licensing fees but are to provide an opportunity to assess value and to provide experience with participation of libraries of all types in database licensing.

Registration data from the RAND California, Z39.50 grants and ILL trial projects are being shared with Regional Planning Groups. This information can be used as a contact list to promote participation in other trials such as the regional grants for database licensing and to broaden involvement in the regional planning process.

Relevant Committee: Support Services  
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray